(i) Hotels situated in prime locations like Delhi and Bangalore may be handed over to established hotel chains through a competitive bidding process to be run on a long term structured contract on lease-cum-management basis.

(ii) Other Hotels may be de-merged into separate corporate identities and the disinvestment in the new companies will be through sale of 100% Government shareholdings in them.

The recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission provide that it would be ideal if a tripartite agreement between ITDC, trade unions and the concerned parties is concluded in each case to take care of the interests of labour.

Appointment of Director in Nav Nalanda Mahavihar, Nalanda

†1834. CHAUDHARY CHUNNI LAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed the most qualified and experienced candidate out of the candidates recommended by Selection Committee, on the post of Director in Nav Nalanda Mahavihar situated at Nalanda in Bihar;

(b) if so, what are the details in respect of all the candidates who were recommended;

(c) whether the present incumbent on the post of Director possess 10 years experience of teaching at postgraduate level in a recognised University and experience of working as Research Director as well as administrative work; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (d) After a careful consideration of the candidates short listed and the qualification prescribed, the Selection Committee recommended a panel of 3 names for appointment as Director, Nav Nalanda Mahavihara. The panel comprised: (1) Dr. Bhikshu Satyapala, (2) Dr. R. Panth and (3) Dr. B. Kumar. The Government approved the appointment of Dr. Ravindra Panth.

Prior to his appointment Dr. Panth was Director at the Vipassana Research Institute, Dhammagiri, Igatpuri, Maharashtra from 1987. Apart from his teaching and research experience at that Institute Dr. Panth was also associated with the University of Mumbai for more than 10 years at times teaching MA classes. He

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

was also associated with the Department of Buddhist Studies, University of Delhi, Member of the Board of Studies in Pali and Buddhism of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Member of the Board of Governors and Society of Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath and Member of the Board of Management of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh.

Opening up of Nagaland for foreign tourists

1835. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have opened up for foreign visitor to visit Nagaland for tourism;

(b) if so, whether permits will be issued; and

(c) how long they can stay?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Few districts in Nagaland have been opened up for foreign tourists.

(b) and (c) Permits are issued for a maximum period of 10 days and in a group of four or more persons. Married couples are also allowed.

Historical monuments in Tamil Nadu

1836. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of historical monuments, places and national sanctuaries in Tamil Nadu and other States which attract foreign tourists;

(b) the amount allocated and spend by Government for its maintenance, upkeep and renewal;

(c) whether Government have published literature about our historical monuments, tourist places and national sanctuaries in foreign countries through our embassies; and

(d) the amount of revenue that comes to the Exchequer through tourism for the past three years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) There are at least 25 places of interest in Tamil Nadu which